

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-5B. These sheets, which include Figs. 1-5B, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-5B. In Figures 1 and 3, the reference numerals 4 and 6 have been corrected; in Figure 2, reference numeral 8' and 8" have been added; in Figures 4A-4C, 5A and 5B, reference numeral 17 has been added; and in Figure 6A, reference numeral 22 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (4)
 Annotated Sheets (4)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Applicants enclose herewith Replacement Sheets of drawings for those originally filed in the instant application. The replacement sheets address the objections raised by the examiner on Page 2 of his office action dated August 26, 2005. In addition, the references numerals 4 and 6 in Figure 1 have been corrected. Applicants respectfully request the examiner to approve the substitute drawings.

The abstract has been deleted in favor of a new abstract which complies with MPEP 608.01(b).

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 17-32. It is submitted that the new claims 17-32 comply with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The examiner rejected the previously submitted claims under 35 U.S.C. 103 over U.S. Patent 5,884,906 to Morse in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,210,507 to Hansen et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,999 to Wayman et al. As to how this rejection applies to the claims as amended herein, it is respectfully traversed.

The Morse '906 document discloses a jig with a first and second jaw for clamping workpieces. The first jaw includes a plurality of hydraulically operating pistons facing from one

side of the jaw toward a second jaw. The second jaw has a plurality of corresponding cavities for the operating pistons in the first jaw and these cavities are adapted to hold a workpiece. Initially it should be known that the second jaw is not a translucent material. Secondly, the plurality of operating pistons in the first jaw cannot be independently variable nor pressed selectively against the second jaw as is the case in the present invention. Independent claims 17 and 26 distinguish over the '906 document for the foregoing reasons.

The secondary reference to Hansen et al., the '507 document, discloses a method of manufacturing plastic windows comprising a plastic frame in at least one pane of transparent plastic. The pane is joined to the frame by laser welding. An abutment pressure is provided between the pane and the frame whereby the pressure is obtained by pressing the pane and the pane between two pressing plates at least one of them being transparent. This apparatus does not show a plurality of supporting segments which are independently adjustable as claimed in the claims of the instant application. Accordingly, even if the teaching of the '507 document were incorporated into the '906 patent so as to provide a transparent upper jaw, the combination of references would still fail as there is nothing to suggest in either of the documents of an apparatus and/or method for variably and independently moving a number of

workpieces selectively as set forth in the claims.

In light of the foregoing, is it submitted that all of the claims as currently pending patentably define over the art of record and an early indication of same is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it
is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit
Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

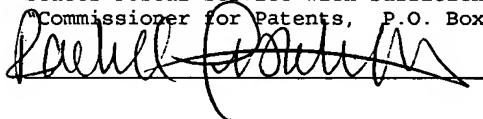
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Date: November 10, 2005

I, Rachel Piscitelli, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
"Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on November 10, 2005.



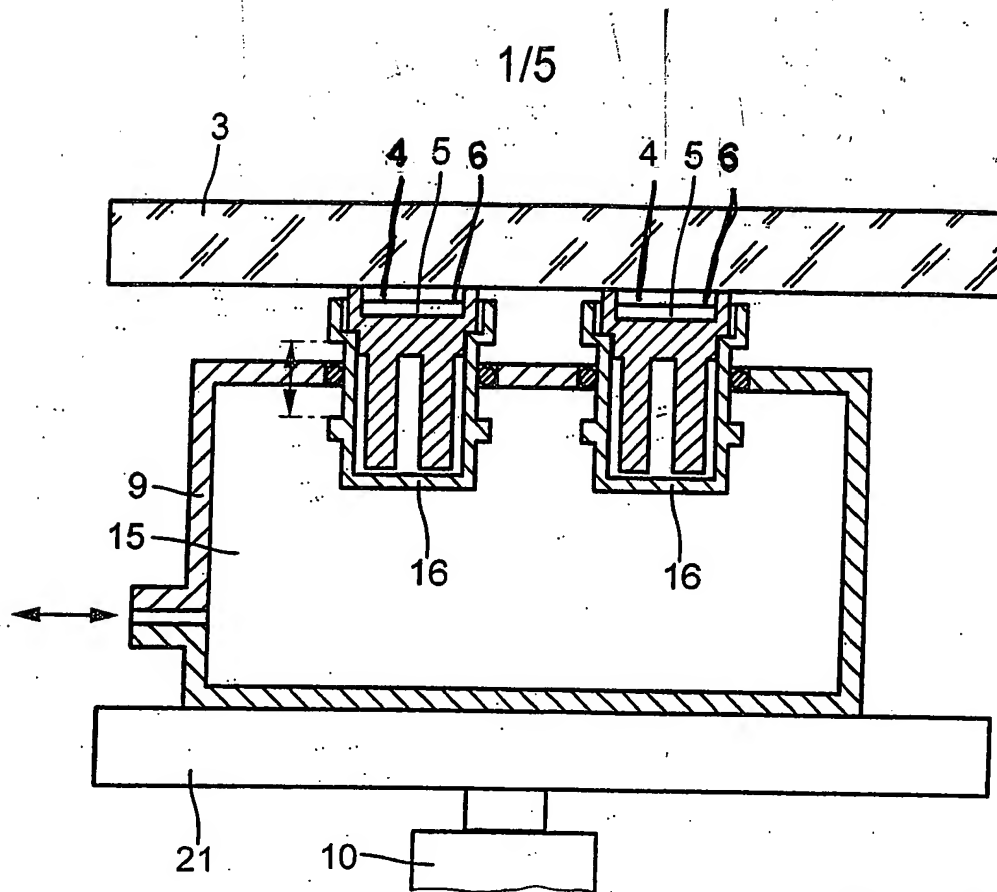


Fig. 1

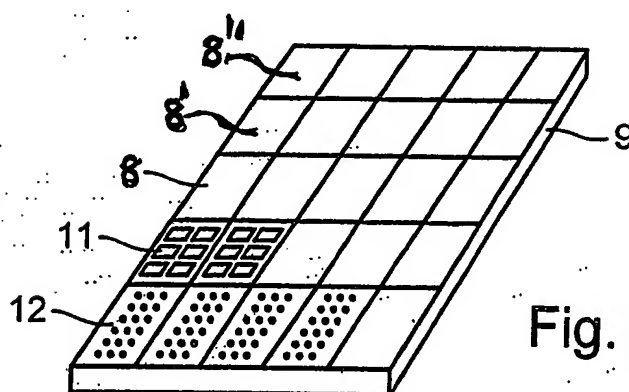


Fig. 2

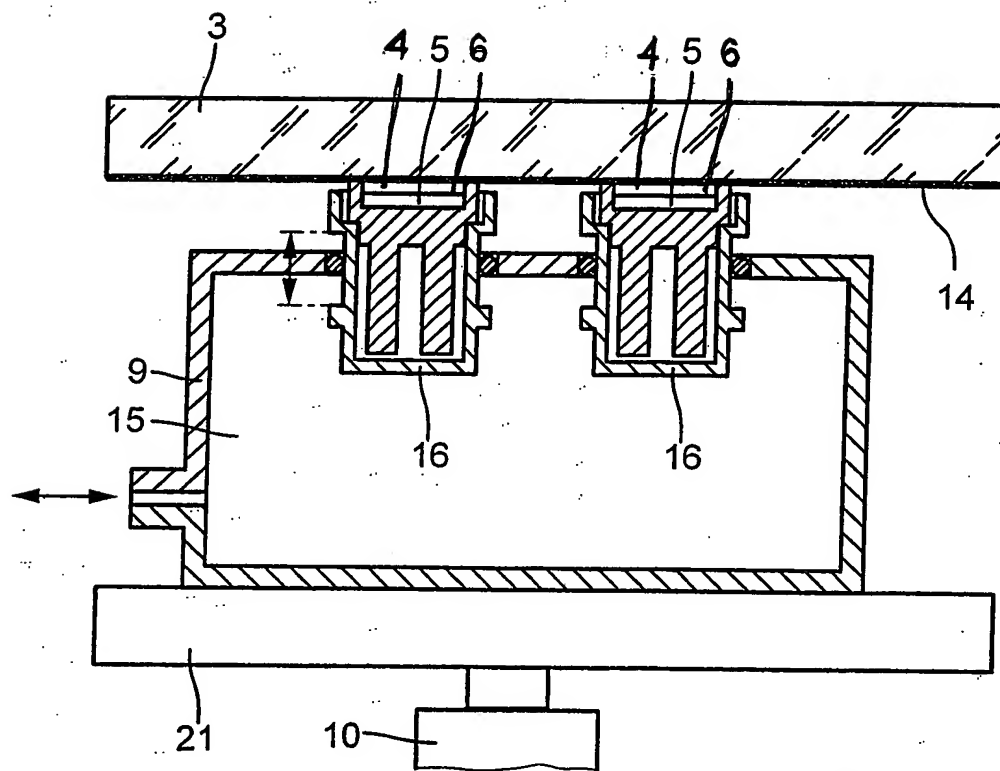


Fig. 3

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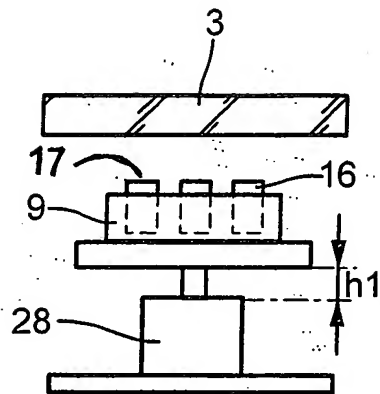


Fig. 4A

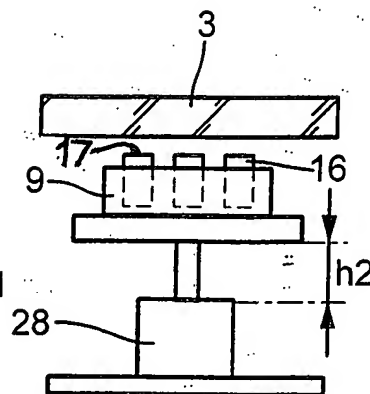


Fig. 4B

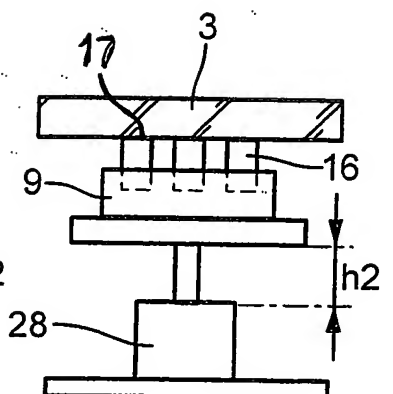


Fig. 4C

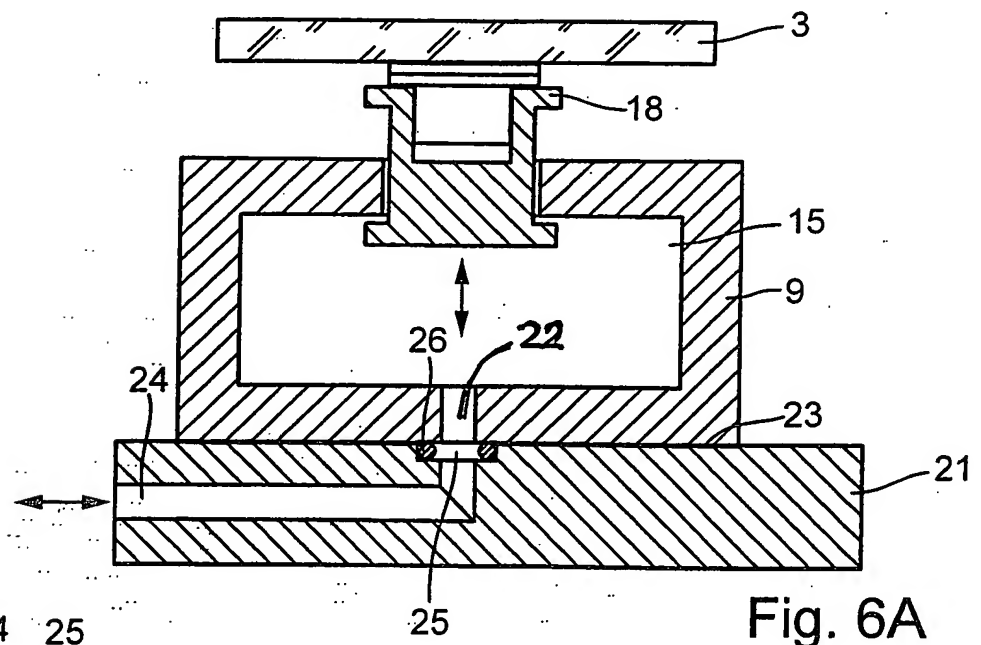


Fig. 6A

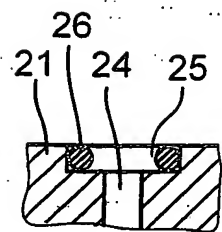


Fig. 6C

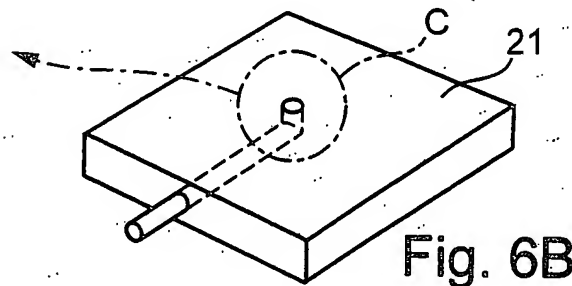


Fig. 6B

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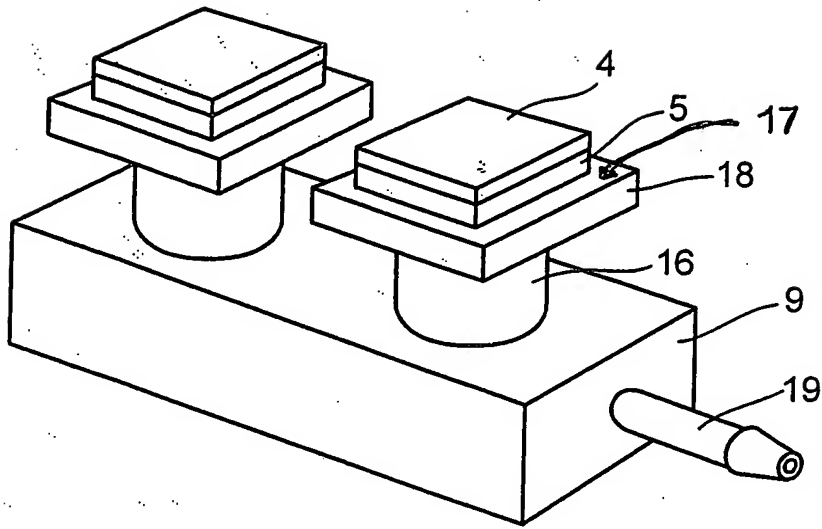


Fig. 5A

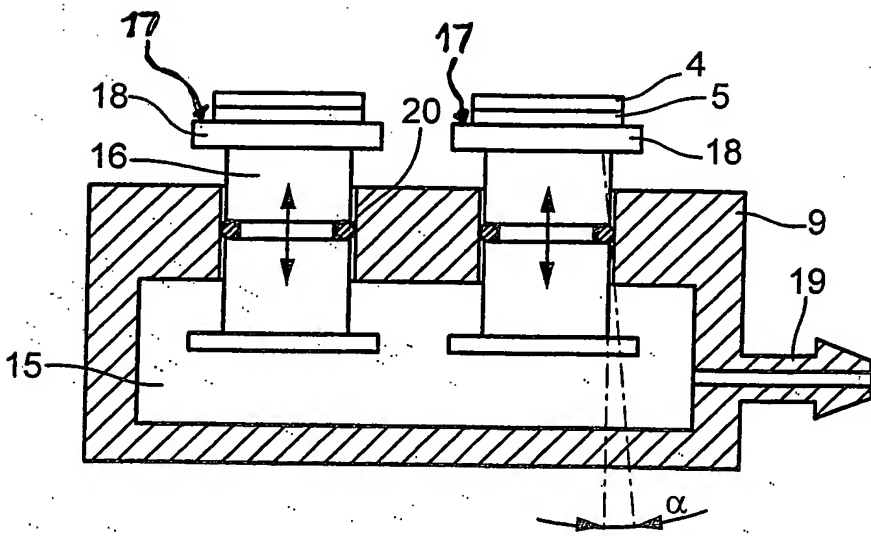


Fig. 5B